



## YOUR MONEY MATTERS



# Department of the Treasury Bureau of Engraving and Printing: The U.S. Government's Security Printer

- Since October 1, 1877, all United States currency has been printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, which began as a six-person operation using steam-powered presses in the Department of the Treasury's basement.
- Now 2,500 Bureau employees occupy 25 acres of floor space in two Washington, D.C. buildings flanking 14th Street. Currency and stamps are designed, engraved, and printed 24 hours a day on 30 high-speed presses. An additional 500 Bureau employees are at the Western Currency Facility in Fort Worth, Texas, where currency is printed 16 hours a day, 5 days a week on 10 high-speed presses.
- In 1995, at a cost of 3.7 cents each, over 9 billion notes worth approximately \$129 billion are being produced for circulation by the Federal Reserve System. Ninety-five percent will replace unfit notes and five percent will support economic growth. At any one time, \$200 million in notes may be in production.
- Of total production, notes currently produced are the \$1 (45 percent of production time), \$5 and \$10 (12 percent each), \$20 (26 percent), \$50 (2 percent), and \$100 (3 percent).
- The Bureau also prints White House invitations and some 500 engraved items, such as visa counterfoils, naturalization documents, commissions, and certificates for almost 75 Federal departments and agencies.

## Tours

- The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is one of the most popular tourist stops in Washington—over 700,000 visit the printing facility each year.
- Free 20-minute guided tours are offered Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., except for Federal holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year's. Tours start on Raoul Wallenberg Place (formerly 15th Street). During the summer months (June-August), afternoon tours are given from 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Visitors can see press runs of 32 note currency sheets, examiners overseeing production to ensure high-quality notes, the application of Federal Reserve and Treasury seals and 4,000 note “bricks” being readied for distribution to Federal Reserve Banks.

- In late 1995, the Bureau will offer tours of postage stamp production.

### **Visitors Center**

- At the Visitors Center, history, production, and counterfeit exhibits showcase interesting information about United States currency.
- Many unique items can be purchased at the sales counter. Items include uncut currency sheets of 32, 16, or 4 \$1 notes; \$150 worth of shredded currency in plastic bags that are sold for \$1; engraved collectors’ prints; souvenir cards; and Department of the Interior Duck Stamps.

### **Mail Order Sales**

- Persons wishing to receive notice of new Bureau products or to order by mail can write: Mail Order Sales, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, 14th and C Streets, S.W., Room 513-M, Washington, D.C. 20228. Credit card purchases of Bureau products are available by calling (202) 874-3316, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.